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Sept. 3, 1891.

SEPTEMBER 1891.



Maryland Farmer

✦ AND ✦

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OUR 28TH YEAR.

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Gold Medal, International Exhibition,  
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First Class Certificate and Silver Medal,  
Calcutta, 1884.

Medal and Diploma, Amsterdam, 1883.

Diploma,  
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The highly concentrated form of this preparation and its ready dilution with water of any temperature, make it very cheap and convenient. It is the best remedy for many skin diseases and all parasitical troubles. For TICKS, LICE, SCAB, MANGE, SCREW-WORMS, THRUSH, SCRATCHES, WOUNDS, &c., it has no equal.

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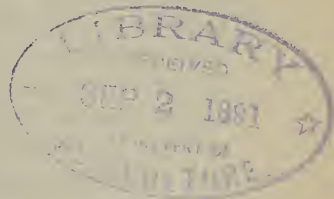
THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

AND NEW FARM.

Vol. XXVIII. BALTIMORE, September 1891. No. 9.

## CONTENTED JIM.

EVERYTHING pleased our neighbor Jim.  
     When it rained  
     He never complained,  
 But said that the weather suited him.  
     " There is never too much rain for me,  
     And this is something like," said he.  
 When earth was dry as a powder mill  
     He did not sigh  
     Because it was dry,  
 But said if he could have his will  
     It would be his chief supreme delight  
     To live where the sun shone day and night.  
 When winter came, with its snow and ice,  
     He did not scold  
     Because it was cold,  
 But said, " Now this is really nice ;  
     If ever from home I'm forced to go,  
     I'll move up North with the Esquimaux."  
 A cyclone whirled along its track,  
     And did him harm—  
     It broke his arm,  
 And stripped the coat from off his back ;  
     " And I would give another limb,  
     To see such a blow again," said Jim.  
 And when at length his years were told,  
     And his body bent,  
     And his strength all spent,  
 And Jim was very weak and old ;  
     " I long have wanted to know," he said,  
     " How it feels to die"—and Jim was dead.





For The Maryland Farmer.

## OUR NEW FARM, XXIV.

## JOSIE'S PARTY.



WE HAD BEEN on our new farm about six years, when Josie Camden came over one day and informed us that the next week she should be twenty-three years old, and was going to celebrate it with a birthday party.

Of course we were to be there and she wanted our daughter to come over and help her about arranging every-thing.

We had no objections to this; for our two families were by this time quite intimate, and no ill-feeling had ever arisen between any of the members of the two households. Our daughter was about of the same age as Josie and they were generally considered inseparable friends.

They placed their heads together and resolved to have most of the young people of the church invited and all who were really desirable who were in our own neighborhood. Some even who were not very great favorites were included: for, as Josie well said, it was only for one evening and they should show themselves neighborly.

For James and Josie and our daughter it was quite a season of excitement, and their many consultations and preparations brought them together almost every

day, and they became better acquainted with each other than ever before.

James did a great deal of the hard work with a hearty willingness that showed him to be an excellent brother, while the girls spent much time over the making of cake, the gathering of confectionery and nice fruits, and the preparing for ice-cream making, and the greater preparation for keeping the young people busy and well entertained while together, inventing charades, tableaux and various entertaining games.

I took notice that daughter's eyes were generally very bright after every visit and there seemed about her a new atmosphere of happy responsibility which became her exceedingly. Josie and she were of that age now where it seemed proper that they should assume some of the management of the affairs of life, and Josie's parents said they would leave the whole party with the young people to do as they chose.

Of course whenever asked, as they were frequently, Josie's father and mother gave advice, and sometimes my dear wife was appealed to by Josie and daughter about different things and gave her advice; but the three young people were generally able to decide the matter acceptable.

A couple of days before the party the Camden homestead was given up to the young people and every room was thoroughly cleaned and festooned and decorated with greens and flowers. Even up to dusk of the very day, they were all busy and then James came home with



daughter and sped back to dress for the great event.

As a compliment to us, perhaps, we were the only married people invited and we went more as company for Mr. and Mrs. Camden than a part of the guests of the young people.

When we arrived the company had already begun to assemble and the "buzz" in the parlor showed that a quiet conversation had begun on subjects which were of interest to the young people generally.

The arrangement had been made that Josie should do as little as possible—that we older ones should do the work aided and directed by James and daughter, who seemed to me to be wonderfully handy about whatever was necessary and to work as if they had studied the matter together most thoroughly.

Just as perfect as evening could be, was this bright moonlight night. And while all were engaged in different methods of enjoyment, leisure moments were taken by some to sit on the piazza, or walk abroad in the moonlight, or standing in the garden engaged in confidential chat.

In due season the games, the charades, the tableaux, the dancing, the supper, the ice-cream, cakes and confections were enjoyed; and all passed off with great satisfaction. It was indeed a delightful occasion and hosts of good wishes, congratulations and thanks were showered upon Josie for the pleasant evening all had enjoyed.

We took ourselves home among those who left as guests, while the three young people were yet in the midst of discussion of the events of the evening and scarcely thinking of the lapse of time.

An hour or so later James and Josie

and daughter came on the piazza and the good nights were gaily exchanged and daughter entered.

We took notice that she seemed radiant with subdued happiness, notwithstanding the fatigue of the day and evening, and greeting us with the good night kiss, departed for the brief sleep of the morning hours.

It was quite late when we arose the next morning, for we all slept with unusual soundness and nothing disturbed us until Lizzie and Charley came over to commence their day's work. They, too, were somewhat late having had their share, also, in help about the party.

The next evening wife said to me:

"Father, daughter tells me that James spoke to her yesterday asking her to marry, and she told him yes, if it should be pleasing to father and mother."

I must acknowledge that for some time I had been expecting this, and yet for the moment I could not speak. The mother continued:

"I suppose we must expect daughter to leave us at some time, and although it makes my heart tremble to think of it, I dare say we shall soon come to feel it to be right."

I then said:

"James is a fine young man; he has no bad habits that I know of; he uses neither liquor nor tobacco; I never heard him utter an oath; I think he will make daughter a good husband. And yet—it will be hard for me to see daughter go from our home."

The mother wiped a tear from her eye, while she said:

"I think we can have no objection to James or his family; and if they love each other, and I don't doubt that, we

must make him welcome to our best treasure. I suppose he will speak to you soon."

Then we talked over the matter and all the changes this would be likely to make in our home, and the question even came up whether it was not best to make arrangements to give up the farm and move back to the city. For the time being; it seemed as if there would be little left for us to trouble ourselves about in labor, and that our life would be lonesome and uncomfortable.

Many were the anxious thoughts that arose in both of our minds in anticipation of the future. Of course we had thought of this event in a vague way before; but when the reality came, we did not seem to have realized in the slightest degree the meaning of it to ourselves.

It was almost daylight when at last we fell into a slumber which was brief but refreshing, and the next morning we were once more ready for whatever might befall us in the usual work of every day life.

As the shadows were gathering in the evening I was down in front of our house among the shrubbery, when James came into the gate and we had a pleasant talk on the subject of his engagement to daughter. He evidently felt a little awkward when at first introducing the subject; but this soon passed away and he went into the house, and mother welcomed him with a kiss so that he soon felt himself one of the household.

It was settled that the marriage should not take place until the fall, and as it was now only the first of June it would give us plenty of time in which to make all those necessary arrangements, which seem to be indispensable on such occasions.

A few days afterward I had a talk with Mr. Camden about the young people, when he said they had long known that James intended to ask daughter to be his wife, and were very glad that it was satisfactory. I then proposed a surprise for the young couple, in which Mr. Camden cordially joined me.

I proposed to give them twenty acres of land including the site for the dwelling which daughter mentioned, and which now was well surrounded with fruit trees and ornamental shrubs, with a thrifty three year old orchard of peach, apple and pear trees adjoining it. Mr. Camden said he would give them twenty acres opposite to this, on which was the plantation of currants, and where there were about ten acres of good woodland.

Afterward I concluded to put up a little cottage on the selected spot and commenced to study up such plans as seemed to be best suited for a snug little cottage home. Mother entered heartily into this work and we finally settled upon a plan as follows:

A broad piazza was to be a great feature of this cottage, extending across the front and along both sides of the building. Of course I did not make known for what purpose I was building this cottage, and the people generally supposed it was for my own dwelling, as many had wondered why we continued to live in the house we occupied and which had stood there upwards of fifty years.

We gradually gathered the necessary stone for the foundation from the two farms, and Mr. Burns, who had an old quarry said I might have as many as I wanted if I chose to work the quarry. Everything moved along very favorably

in this respect, and did not interfere much with our regular farm labors. The brick we purchased at Camden Junction and this with the lumber, cement and lime was delivered at our station and was hauled by our own teams.

I commenced work on the house by staking out the dimensions and plowing and scraping off the top soil which was carefully preserved for future use. I then continued the use of plow and scraper as long as I could to any advantage. Finally, I drew the lines, made my measures correct with my plans and had the cellar dug, wheeling the dirt to the sides and rear.

A workman to lay up the walls was obtained for \$2 a day and board and Charley served as tender.

The carpenter agreed to do all the necessary carpenter's work for \$125 and board, and he gave me a list of the lumber which would be needed. Sash, blinds and doors would be bought from the factory.

The plasterer's wages were \$2 a day and we decided to have only two coats, and the walls to be papered.

In this way the work went rapidly forward on a very economical scale and the cottage soon began to wear a very prosperous appearance.

We decided to have it one story and a half in height; but should I build again, I think I would have it full two stories, as it would make the rooms so much better above. We had, however, an octagon tower on a front corner, which served as a part of the front entrance hall.

When the outside was finished, it made a decidedly pretty appearance as viewed from the road, and I have not been ashamed of it by any means, count-

ing the cost, which in actual outlay was less than a thousand dollars—and the house was 28 by 50, not including the piazza—eight rooms and many closets.

A great deal of care had been taken to avoid any injury to trees or shrubbery, and when the reserved soil had been properly leveled and spread around the new building, it became very attractive.

The months rolled rapidly away in the midst of all this excitement of building and preparation. Of course the young people knew nothing of what was intended by us, and were quite oblivious to everything except their own happy anticipations.

*(To be continued.)*

For The Maryland Farmer.

#### FACTS TO BE REMEMBERED.

**H**AVE PLENTY of garden truck for the family is the true policy—don't forget that. Have all of the first quality; but have enough so that the very best may be saved for seed.

The late growing weeds are apt to be neglected and they seed the soil for future trouble. If you would save work aim to prevent every weed from going to seed.

In setting out trees about your home, it is just as easy to have those which will give fruit, as to have mere ornamental trees; and fruit is always in order. Every home should have trees for shade, for comfort, for beauty.

The nearer the produce gets to the consumer the better it is for both. No matter what you have for sale, be wide awake enough to reach the consumer if possible.



## VALUE OF MANURES.

**B**ULLETIN No. 54 of the Ohio Experiment Station gives a synopsis of experiments made at Cornell University, New York, showing that farmyard manures, when exposed to the weather, rapidly lose a large part of their values. The synopsis is as follows:

In the experiments of 1889, horse manure was saved from day to day until a pile of two tons had been accumulated. This was done from April 18 to 25. Cut wheat straw was used plentifully as bedding, the relative amount of straw and manure being 3,318 pounds excrement and 681 pounds straw.

Chemical analysis showed that one ton of this fresh manure contained nearly ten pounds of nitrogen, seven and one-half pounds of phosphoric acid and eighteen pounds of potash, making its value about \$5.80, if these constituents be valued at the same rate as in commercial fertilizers.

The pile of manure thus made was put in a place exposed to the weather and where the drainage was so good that all the water not absorbed by the manure ran through and off at once. It remained exposed from April 25 to September 22, at which time it was carefully scraped up, weighed and a sample taken for analysis. It was found that the 4,000 had shrunk to about 1,730 pounds during the six months, and analysis showed that this 1,730 was less valuable, pound for pound, than the original lot of manure. It had not only lost by leaching, but by heating or "fire fanging" during periods of dry weather and the value of the pile of 4,000 pounds had shrunk from \$5.60 to \$2.12—a loss of 62 per cent.

In summing up the results of this ex-

periment, Director Roberts says: "It seems safe to say that under the ordinary conditions of piling and exposure, the loss of fertilizing materials during the course of the summer is not likely to be much below fifty per cent of the original value of the manure."

Further experiments showed that the liquid manure from a cow is worth as much per day as the solid manure, and that the combined value of the two is nearly ten cents per day, if valued at the same rate as commercial fertilizers; that from a horse at seven cents, that from a sheep at one and one-half cent, and that from a hog at one-half cent for liberally fed, thrifty shoats of medium size.

Director Roberts is careful to explain that these values will have to be modified to suit individual circumstances. What he means is that if farmers can afford to buy commercial fertilizers at current prices, then the manures of the farm are worth the prices given.

## THE DAIRY INTEREST.

**W**E CONDENSE from an article of A. L. Crosby, written for the *Mirror and Farmer* as follows:

One of the most striking things to be noticed in the reports of the institutes and farmers' meetings that have been held recently is the great attention paid to dairying; and this is not so much to be wondered at, considering that in the present depressed state of farming, dairying, if rightly conducted, pays a fair profit, and the money received from the sale of dairy products is paid every week or every month, thus enabling the dairyman to pay cash for whatever he has to



buy, and paying cash buy cheaper.

Modern dairying—with its cows yielding from 240 to 300 pounds of butter per head, with its granular butter made from cream raised by the deep setting method or whirled out by the separator, or its butter taken directly from the fresh milk by the extractor—has little in common with the dairying of thirty years ago; and it is the modern way of dairying that pays, and the only kind that can pay.

In farming, if everything that is grown on the farm is sold, and nothing bought to replace the fertility thus carried away in the crops, it is only the matter of a few years before the crops will not be large enough to pay for the labor of growing and harvesting. The rich soils of the West, once thought to be inexhaustible, have reached such a state of unproductiveness that farmers have been compelled to adopt new methods. In Wisconsin, where they grew wheat until wheat would not pay any longer, they have been turning to dairying as their friend in need, and it has not disappointed them; and in the East we must keep more live stock of some kind, and the dairy cow seems to be the animal that can be more generally and successfully used than any other. When we sell butter we sell none of the farm's fertility; when we sell milk we sell some fertility; but in either case, we—if we feed the cows right—are increasing the farm's productiveness instead of reducing it; and I think when one's farm is visibly growing richer, it is one of the most encouraging things we can have, for we know that it means, sooner or later, more riches for the owner.

I do not take much stock in the chemist's figures, that a ton of feed after it

passes through the cow is worth as much for manure as the feed cost: that comes too near millennial times to suit the present state of worldly affairs; but I do believe that a ton of rich feed will make much richer manure than a ton of poor feed—how much it is really worth I will leave for the experiment stations to determine by repeated trials in actual practice. But this we know, that if we feed a herd of cows with an abundance of rich feed—whether home-grown or bought—the manure made by those cows is rich, and rich manure makes good crops.

I have tried both roots and silage, and while I prefer silage I would not miss it so much if I had a cellar full of mangels; but neither roots nor silage is necessary to successful dairying—for there are many dairymen who make money with nothing but dry feed in winter. The important point is to have good cows, well cared for, and to work up their product according to the best known methods.

Dairy products ought to increase in price, and probably will in the near future, because consumers are increasing more rapidly than producers. Thoughtful men are claiming that the consumption of wheat in this country will, in five years, overtake production, and if that is anywhere near being true, then consumption of dairy products ought to overtake production in less time. With good laws, rigidly enforced, against fraudulent competition in dairy products, with improved cows and methods, with the help received from lecturers at the conventions and by reading the best farm papers, I see no reason why the dairy interest should not become one of the most prosperous of all.

### FRESH BUTTER THE YEAR ROUND.

AT THIS SEASON of the year, when butter is lowest in price and everybody is making it, it is a good plan to think of holding it until prices are higher. The great trouble with packed butter is that when used it is off flavor and oftentimes no better than soap grease. Any method that will keep the butter for a few months in good condition is well worthy of trial. George Parr of Dakota gives his experience in the *Northwestern Farmer and Breeder* with packing butter. In 1889, when butter was worth 8 to 10c per lb, he made his butter in five pound rolls and wrapped it in Elliott's parchment paper. He put this into new pork barrels and covered it with strong brine. Early last winter he sold a number of barrels of this butter to a dealer in Montana for 20c per lb, and the dealer wrote, "If balance of your butter is as good as last delivered, ship it at once." Mr. Parr says this butter was in brine 16 or 17 months. The butter he made the past season was kept in brine six months, and there seemed to be no difference in flavor between that and the butter put in a year before.

In August he put down three barrels of granular butter, which he handled in this way: He lined the barrel with Elliott's parchment paper, filled it with in four inches of the top with butter, put on a cover that would slip inside the barrel, weighted it and filled the barrel to the brim with strong brine that would float an egg. Then in the winter when he churned, he put away the fresh but-

termilk, took out some butter from the barrels, put it in the churn and poured fresh buttermilk on it. He churned this for a few seconds and found that it was equal to his fresh butter and that he had to resalt it again. The buttermilk was drawn off and the butter treated in the usual way, and he had but one complaint from a very particular customer, that the butter was not quite up to the general standard. If these two methods of putting down butter can keep the butter as well as Mr. Parr says, then they will prove a god-send to many dairymen. The process is not expensive, and by churning the granular butter in fresh buttermilk, there can be no doubt but that it will impart to the butter all the qualities of fresh butter.

In trying these experiments, the great essentials are, in the first place, to have the butter washed clean of all foreign matter, the barrel must be new, clean and tight and well lined, the brine must be strong and made of good salt, and the butter must be kept constantly covered. We see no reason why these methods may not be used to preserve butter in good condition. For near-by markets the method of preserving butter in granular form is probably the better of the two. By churning this in fresh buttermilk, it could then be sold for fresh butter, while if preserved in rolls, it would have to be sold for packed butter. We would not advise dairymen to try it on a large scale the first year, but pack one or two barrels as an experiment and see how it comes out. There surely can be no great loss in trying it on a small scale and it may be the way of making a great gain.—*Farm and Home*.

## ASPARAGUS FOR MARKET.

HON. CHARLES W. GARFIELD,  
of Michigan, says:

It is best to grow one's own plants if practicable. If not, the best yearling plants should be secured, at a cost not exceeding \$3 per thousand in quantity.

It is not a very serious job to put down an acre of asparagus.

The record here given is a leaf from my own experience. My acre of ground was a deep, sandy loam, upon which a heavy dressing of manure had been placed the previous year and a crop of potatoes taken from it. The land was turned two furrows deep and thoroughly cultivated, harrowed and smoothed with a planer. Rows were marked out four feet apart, and with a plow trenches opened to a depth of nine inches. The ground once in shape for planting, if a "drizzly day" happens along just right, one has the ideal conditions for putting in the plants. One man distributes the plants three feet apart in the row and a second man puts them in place, packing enough dirt firmly about the roots to cover them well. It requires 3,630 plants for the acre, and the two men will, if active, put them in place in a half day. The smoothing harrow drawn lengthwise of the plantation completes the job, by rattling a little loose earth into the furrows. In a few days the harrowing process can again be repeated, destroying the small weeds, and I even followed a third time before the plants were high enough to be injured.

Upon ground that is heavily manured with stable manure, weeds grow without provocation, and constant cultivation is required to ensure the continuous growth

of the planted crop; but the careful culture required to keep the weeds in abeyance is the ideal culture for the crop.

At the end of the season the crowns of the asparagus plants are covered to a depth of six inches. The ground can be given thorough culture to a depth of three or four inches across the field, without injury to the plants.

My first acre was planted six years ago and has been plowed over each year just after burning off the tops in the autumn, and before the freezing of the ground. I give it a biennial dressing of stable manure alternating with dressings of refuse salt from a hide packing establishment. The dressing of manure is at the rate of thirty two tons per acre. The latter dressing is filled with animal products.

In the spring of each year the ground is thoroughly cultivated, harrowed, and finished with a planer, so that when we open the season of picking, the surface is as smooth as a floor.

My picking season usually lasts about six weeks and the average product is something over 400 dozen bunches. If I can have a trusty hand to do the gathering, I do not allow a knife to be taken into the field. The gatherer takes two rows at a time, breaking off the shoots just beneath the ground, at the lowest point where they will snap squarely off. In the growing season the field is gone over every day.

Since I have used rubber elastic instead of string or bark for tying, the process of bunching has been greatly abridged. Five dozen bunches can be put together in an hour by an expert hand and neatly squared at the ends.

While for one's own table asparagus should be cut and cooked in the same



hour, by judicious handling the product of a field may be kept two or three days and may be fresh and plump for the market. This is done by standing the bunches in fresh water and renewing it once in twelve hours, removing a little of the loose ends of the bunches with a sharp knife just previous to placing it on the market.

My practice is to keep my field clean of all sprouts from the beginning to the end of the picking season. A shoot that is grassy or gnarled is thrown away or fed to the calves.

The plantation should not be weakened by too long a season of gathering. A good rule to follow is to stop when the early peas are ready to market from adjoining land.

The only insect enemy of asparagus which has appeared yet in our State is the cutworm. Clean and continuous culture in early spring, following autumn plowing of the surface has reduced this pest to a minimum with me.

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#### PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURE FOR COMMON SCHOOLS.

Teaching the rudiments of Agriculture in our common schools should be commended as one of the duties of really practical importance. It is not to be supposed that any very great benefit practically would arise from it to the majority of city children; but to the whole country outside of the large cities its value cannot be overestimated.

These remarks arise from the examination of a small volume with the above title issued by the American Book Company, New York, prepared by I. O. Wins-

low, A. M., bound handsomely in cloth and sold for 60 cts.

Beginning with the first elements of all substances, it shows the actual position of plants and animals in reference to them, and then calls for the science of growth and the philosophy of fertilization. A large part of the volume is properly devoted to the nature and application of manures and the measures for insuring crops. It is worthy of the study of mature minds, for it occupies a field in which hosts of practical farmers are in need of genuine information.

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#### THINNING FRUIT.

IT IS CERTAINLY a peculiar trait in human nature that causes "barns to be locked after the horse is stolen," and a strange reasoning in vegetable economy to thin fruit after it is nearly or even half grown. I agree with the "noted peach grower" in the July 9th issue of the *Delaware Farm and Home* "that every dollar invested in the labor of thinning fruit has repaid him five fold," but I wish to ask how many fold would every dollar repay invested in thinning the fruit before the fruit buds open in the spring? In other words, what would be the saving if the fruit is thinned at the time of pruning during the winter months? It would be difficult to estimate the vast saving to the peach growing district of Delaware and Maryland if peach orchards were properly winter pruned. In all my visits and inquiries I have found but two growers who use anything like the proper methods of pruning the peach tree. In a recent visit to Kent and Queen Anne counties



of Maryland, not a single orchard was pruned at all properly. Every one was in a fine state of cultivation and full of what will be medium sized fruit and many of the trees will be found to give way under the weight of the ripening fruit. All this work of summer thinning, and all the work and trouble accruing from overproduction can be entirely avoided by pruning off from one to two thirds of the past season's growth and in "shortening in" the growth on the ends of the branches all over a tree in winter. The "shortening in" process is but little understood by growers. It is very simple and is not a theoretical process that cannot be put into full practice. As high an authority as Downing recommends that the peach especially be "shorthened in" at every winter pruning. This simply means that the main limbs must be kept short and stocky by cutting off two or three, or even more of the past season's growth with the end of the "shortened in" limb. The young growths below the point where a main limb is cut off should also be pruned back more or less, depending on their location on the tree. All growths on top of a tree should be pruned back more than those on the sides of a tree, always, of course with reference to the fruit buds. Fruit buds should be left at the ends of the pruned growths and since they are mostly located in the central region of each year's growth it is easy to leave from three to six at the end of last years growth by pruning off the ends containing mostly leaf buds. As a rule a medium length of last season's growth bears from ten to sixteen or more fruit buds and it is unsound reasoning to suppose that such twigs are able to sup-

port that many peaches or produce them of profitable market size. I will say also that it is a great waste of energy to allow the tree to even bloom with so many buds upon its surface and much to allow them to form partially grown fruit only to drop to the ground for want of proper nourishment or to be taken off by the thinner. A tree will properly mature a certain number of fruit each year. If allowed to bear more than it can mature to a large salable size, its strength is reduced proportionally for the support of a crop the following year, other conditions being equal. Heavy fertilizing will not counterbalance or make good for the inability of a tree to produce a heavy crop each consecutive year. It may stimulate a tree to an over exertion as a hotter fire and plenty of steam in an engine will produce more motive power but the strain and "wear and tear" is certain to follow and a short life is the ultimate result. The "crying need" in fruit tree culture of to-day is the practice of economy with tree forces and not let them be wasted.

Let the grower exercise judgment in giving his trees just enough work to do and no more. Then he will realize the greatest possible profits and not until then. He will have a paying crop every year, foreign contingencies excepted, and his fruit products will be the highest types of perfection in size, quality and beauty. Therefore I repeat, thin your fruit at the time of winter pruning.

THOMAS L. BRUNK.

Horticulturist Md. Ex. Station,  
College Park, Md.

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BEECHAM'S PILLS cure Sick-Headache.

## STATE EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

**I**N THE *Farmer and Fruit Grower*, A. F. Boyce, of Jacksonville, Fla., has an excellent article on this subject. Much of it is naturally connected with productions which relate to that climate; but much is equally applicable to the State of Maryland. Here the Experimental Station has ample grounds to make all needed experiments—while the two hundred or more acres of the College farm may become a “model farm,” free from the uncertainties of the other. The closing words of Mr. Boyce are under these circumstances especially applicable to our State. We make liberal extracts from the article:

A well conducted State agricultural station ought to develop a line of practical results setting forth more clearly some certain facts regarding many farm and garden, fruit and fibre products. The day is at hand when the idea of an intensive system of farming should be carefully elucidated.

We must look more largely to preserving our fruit products. This increases labor and brings much larger returns as to prices. An experimental farm, if it is worth the name it bears, should take up such lines of practical outcome not only as to fruit growth but the same as to other products wheresoever applicable. In a hundred ways could a well-directed State farm subserve the interests and inure to the benefit of the farmers and fruit growers, gardeners and fibre growers.

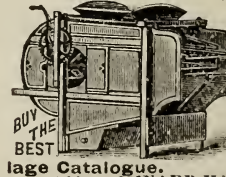
It must not be expected that we can learn all that we would like to know about these things in a year or two, for the field of study is a vast one. But what hinders us from making good pro-

gress from month to month and from year to year? Useful information to beginners is one of the chief aims of a practical school, or institution of this kind; for the object of any reasonable line of experiments should ever be to set forth the way to avoid mistakes, losses, and to reach, as uniformly as possible, the best results.

A State farm could give a fair conclusion to a thousand reasonable inquiries on the lines indicated above, and if its progress were but moderate so that it was reliable in its workings and did serve to lead the farmer onward safely it then would receive our commendation.

There is no doubt of its practical utility when properly equipped and rightly managed. The means now available seem sufficient to warrant results far ahead of what has yet appeared. It is in no sense wise to depreciate the labors or the management of the past; but it is wise to seek straightway to repair matters and bring about better results at the earliest date possible. Forty years' experience in agriculture and horticulture permits me to speak with some confidence as to the general want of such an institution and its field of usefulness when in goodworking shape and fitly handled. It ought to be of more profit annually to the farmers of Florida than is its yearly cost or outlay. Otherwise it is a burden and of these we have too many already.

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For The Maryland Farmer.

### HEALTH EXERCISE.

BY DR. GRACE-CALVERT.

**I**N A PREVIOUS communication I wrote upon walking as exercise, I wish now to speak of country exercise for poor run-down city men and women.

Generally there is a strong prejudice on the part of city people against any recommendation, which depends upon leaving the excitements and the social life and the human presence which the city life has brought around them.

I don't wonder at this because the country life, with its sense of loneliness, its silence when night comes and all the external beauties are shut out, the dreadful sound of the night winds in the trees when the wind is stirring, is certainly a great source of dread to those not familiar with such experiences.

But, all the same, the fact remains that much of the feeble languor, the constant sense of loss of physical tone, and many petty ailments can be remedied by the country air and contact with mother earth.

Mild work, in the garden of flowers, or fruits, or vegetables, is what is needed to restore the hosts of complaining men and women in the city. Nothing else is needed; no medicines, nothing of the hosts of tonics upon the sale of which so many are getting colossal fortunes, no doctor's stuff whatever, only a little mild fussing about plants and digging in the ground. No fatigue, no hard labor is necessary.

Of course, where a man and woman, or a family in poor circumstances move from the city into the country, it involves the idea of some work for all parties—some hard work at times; and

such work will soon be but play beside the hard work of the city. It will have the gift of health with it so that life will have a happy spring to it, in step, in motion and in heart throbs.

What is the power which will do this? I have been asked this question time and again. My answer has always been: What is the use of giving it a name? It does it and that is all that is needed.

Why should I go into talk about Ozone in the country air, or any other outlandish name for the health giving powers of the earth and the sunlight and the atmosphere? The tired, sleepy, fretful souls with failing powers are recuperated and the being seems to others and to self a new being.

But people get sick in the country as well as in the city. Yes, people will get sick and die everywhere. I am only telling how the city sick can get well without drugs and doctors if they will use a little common sense about work in the country.

Gardening is yet to be the great work of the really healthful man and woman. It is the best work in which any one can be engaged where health is the object, and pursued with reason I would recommend it as the nearest approach to heavenly happiness that anyone can find on this earth.

Health first, then peace, then contentment, then overflowing happiness as the result of these. I have no theories, I care for no theories, the reality is all that I care to write about now.

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Every pasture should have water and shade—the best pastures have a clear running brook and sufficient trees to accommodate the stock.



## FRESH AIR FOR EGGS.

I HAVE seen statements saying it was as easy to make hens lay in December as in June. To this I take exception, at least in the way commonly indicated, by providing warm houses and feeding liberally.

To secure hardiness, maturity and a complete coat of winter plumage, which must be attained before eggs will be produced in cold weather, the flocks must have special care during August, September and October. For if the hens and pullets are kept in warm houses during the three months referred to they will put on a thin coat of feathers, so that when cold weather comes on instead of laying eggs they make haste to fill in the necessary feather to make their coat thick enough to resist the sudden changes that occur in winter.

To avoid this trouble let the hens and chickens roost out of doors, on trees if you cannot do any better. But the better way is to build roosts out of doors.

Set posts in the ground so that they will be 6 ft. high and 3 or 4 ft. apart each way, letting the roosts cross each other like the lines on a checker board 4 ft. apart. Build a ladder for the young chickens to ascend upon and you can roost a dozen or 1000 chickens in one group and have no trouble with roup or other diseases.

In August take your old hens out of their houses and make them roost out of doors in the same way.

Then give the houses a thorough cleaning and whitewashing and let them stand empty until cold weather sets in. At that time put the hens and pullets into the house.

They will fill your baskets with eggs

during December and January, provided your pullets have been properly fed during the three months referred to, for if they are kept on a short allowance for a week during the growing and ripening season it will delay their producing eggs for a month or more.

If the old hens to be kept over are taken out of their houses during the moulting season the process will be more quickly and thoroughly done than if kept in warm houses, besides doing better during the winter.

Much has also been said of late years about keeping hens in warm houses. This is a delusion and snare, I have collected a mass of testimony that goes to prove that cool dry houses are far more desirable.

A gentleman recently said he would not have his thirty one houses in which he is wintering 150 hens shingled if it cost him nothing; and added, the more shingles and paper you put on a hen-house the more hiding place you make for red lice. He boards his roofs up and down and battens on the inside. This man has had 15 years of successful experience and knows what he is talking about.—*W. P. Shepard, in Farm and Home.*

## BUCKWHEAT.

PROF. WILLIAM A. BREWER, to whom was referred all the information obtained by the census bureau in 1880, and who was employed by the superintendent of the tenth census to write the articles in the report on cereals, says of buckwheat:

All varieties flourish best on rather light soils without fresh manure. On



too rich soils straw is liable to be too heavy and soft, and consequently to lodge and the seed is liable to be blighted. It belongs to the cooler and rougher regions, with hillsides and thin soils. Inasmuch as buckwheat will flourish upon a poor and worn-out soil, it is frequently sown on such lands preliminary to something else, to be plowed in green, making an excellent green manure."

Johnson, an eminent Scotch agricultural writer, says of buckwheat: "It grows on very poor land, from which no other grain crops in remunerative quantity can be obtained."

Mr. Stewart says that on the Blue Ridge in Pennsylvania he "has taken as much as 75 bushels per acre." He ought to have added that such a yield was unusual anywhere, and could not be counted upon more than you can count on raising men seven feet high, or steers that will weigh 3000 pounds. Mr. Stewart may be able to shoulder a barrel of flour, but not one man in a thousand has ever done it or can do it.

The average yield of buckwheat in the United States, according to the tenth census, was not quite 14 bushels to the acre.

According to the report of the Department of Agriculture for 1890, the average per acre was 12.8 bushels.—*Country Gentleman*.

#### POINTS IN POULTRY KEEPING.

AT A MEETING of the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Agricultural and Horticultural Society, Dr. C. Greene read the following essay upon the subject of poultry raising:

For forty years with occasional interruptions, it has been my fortune as (boy and man) to care for poultry, and some experiences I have gathered during these years I propose now to make public for all who are interested in the matter, and for convenience sake I will arrange the facts under different heads.

1. Hens, if properly kept, are a source of profit and comfort to the owner.

2. The eggs can be increased in size and richness by proper feeding of the fowls.

3. They require a variety of food, and get excessively tired of one kind.

4. The egg contains almost all the constituents of the human body, and hence the hen must have a variety of food to construct it.

5. No other product of animal or vegetable life contains substances exactly like the albumen and yolk of an egg.

6. The hen ceases laying when improperly fed, or when in a diseased condition.

7. They require a warm, clean, properly ventilated house for winter months.

8. If by neglect vermin infest the birds' roosts and house, they should at once be removed, as they are deleterious to the health of these friends of man.

9. The droppings of hens should be occasionally removed. They should not be allowed to accumulate. The floors should be covered with loam or sand.

10. As hens require a great deal of water, drinking only a small quantity at a time, it should be supplied abundantly, and kept clean and fresh.

11. As they require, and must have, carbonate and phosphate of lime for their shells, it must be given them in unstinted quantities, and in the most convenient

manner for them to pick and swallow into the crops.

12. These requirements will be found in old plastering, broken oyster shells, and, best of all, in fresh bones, with some of the gristle and meat attached. It should be cut on a log with a hatchet every day; the strife made by fowls to get at it when offered them will plainly prove to you that they like and need it. The instincts of the hen in summer, with proper range, will teach it what and where to collect the variety of food required. In winter, when housed, man must supply it to them.

13. The application of sulphur sprinkled upon the fowls, while roosting or otherwise, with a pepper box, will destroy vermin. Coal oil applied to their roosts in small quantities will also kill parasites. Two or three drops of whale oil, dropped occasionally on the back of a hen or any other bird, will kill the lice.

14. The nest must occasionally be renewed and kept clean. Straw is better than hay. Tobacco stems covered with straw is an excellent prevention of insect breeding especially when they are setting.

15. When clucking and not needed for mothers, the quickest way to stop their chicken-raising desire is to put them in boxes or cages without anything to lay upon except the board.

16. A few fowls in separate pens are much more profitable and more easily kept healthy than in large numbers.

17. They require, and must have in winter, green food such as grass, turnips, beets or cabbage leaves.

18. The temperature of a coop should not be allowed to be lower than forty-five

degrees in winter, and should be most of the time up to sixty degrees.

19. Corn and wheat middlings, corn unground, oats, bread and other slops from the house should all be fed, changing as often as twice a week.

20. Like cows, and other stock, harsh treatment injures them. They like a kind master, and know his voice, as quick as heard.

21. Hens should be killed when three years old, as they lay less eggs every year after the third, and they naturally become diseased and not so good eating when they become older.

22. The sooner in the spring you commence setting the hens for the purpose of raising chickens the better; late chickens generally fare badly.

23. Pullets rarely make good mothers. three and four year old hens are best.

#### GREEN MOUNTAIN-WINCHELL.

A Grape called Winchell was sent to us this year with the statement that it is the same Grape that has been sent out as "Green Mountain." We planted it alongside the Green Mountain received last year. So far it differs widely in the appearance of its foliage from the Green Mountain.—Ex. Station, Raleigh, N. C.

W. F. MASSEY.

*From the Garden and Forest, June 3, 1891.*

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**BALTIMORE COUNTY FAIR.**

**T**HIS FAIR, which will be held at Timoninea Sep. 8—10, promises this year to have a phenomenal success. It is under the especial care of Mr. D. H. Rice, the President, who is a host in himself. We hope farmers and their families everywhere will aid him substantially in all his efforts, for we are confident every move he proposes will be a healthy one. Mr. Rice, has one of the finest farms in the county and his stock is well known, as he has taken prizes for

them in the past. It will be a pleasure for us to record a success which will surpass any previous year in the history of this Fair.

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**BEHIND THE AGE.**

**T**HEY SAY the *Telegraph* poultry editor is behind the age because he does not favor cock fighting. Because he does not believe in breeding birds for this purpose they call him "a new church member," and because he wants a law making the breeding of birds for the pit as serious an offence as the fighting them, these poultry "sports" are ready to ostracise him. All right; if the opposition of this kind of work is to place us behind the age, we will meekly submit ourselves to the trying ordeal.

Because we have said that the farmer can make better meat, and secure more satisfaction in having good crosses than strictly pure-breeds, they say he is "foggyish," "an advocate of dunghills," and so on. But not until the fancier ceases to work for symmetry and fine feathers will the farmer be able to cope with thoroughbreds as easily as the unity of two pure breeds.

We do believe in purebreeds. We keep them. We have likewise tried crosses, and our experience has been—and we are not alone in it—that the crosses, if they are of systematic mating, will be hardier and more profitable for market purposes.

There is a vast difference between the aims of the fancier and the market poulterer. The former wants the plumage correct, he even goes to the undercolor. He wants certain styles, and he wants



numerous other things. To obtain these he inbreeds—he must inbreed. What is the consequence? The fowl becomes a beautiful bird with a sacrifice of utility. It gets the graceful carriage and the proper shade by hammering at the constitution. The market poultryman cares nothing for beauty, for correct lacing or barring, for graceful carriage, or properly serrated comb. What he wants is a plump bird, of fine table qualities, and to get it profitably he resorts to crosses.

Do not count us behind the age until you are pretty sure the signs of the times are right.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

\* \* \* \* \*

Go ahead, Mr. Boyer, the MARYLAND FARMER thinks you a long distance ahead of the age in your article above quoted. Those who think you behind the age, are still groping in the darkness of the past, where color and feathers are better than use—where the head and comb are of more value than the breast, and where feathers on the toes are vastly more important than hardy, healthful chicks and prolific layers. Join use to beauty; but let use have the first place every time.

#### A GREAT MISTAKE TOUCHED.

“TOO MANY CHURCHES and too little religion is one trouble with a small farming town—and lots of towns that aren’t agricultural! Not a few of our older settled communities, which in their prime supported several congregations both spiritually and financially, still try to maintain several churches, although their numbers are much re-

duced. This develops a narrowness of spiritual life and a tendency to cliques in social matters that has a powerful influence in making farm life in such a community unattractive to the young people. *Farm and Home* is not a church journal or a so-called “religious paper” any more than it is a political organ, but it does believe most thoroughly in carrying into every day practice the principles proclaimed by Jesus Christ in his Sermon on the Mount. This is the kind of Christianity that interferes with no creed while it does much to promote happiness of those who practice it. Less attention to isms and more co-operation in evangelical work would be a powerful factor in many a rural town. The Christian Endeavor society serves a useful purpose in this direction in not a few communities. A genuine revival of spiritual grace is often the necessary preparation for such co-operation. Different people have different ideas about the form this revival may take, yet it is not the form but the actual quickening of the spirit that is the essential object.”

The Springfield, Mass., *Farm and Home* touches above one of the greatest burdens which is afflicting our country, viz: The many different churches, congregations and religious organizations in every little village or country town.

We believe it right that each family should contribute towards the support of public worship; but we think the country would be vastly better off if at least three quarters of the expense was dedicated to the union of sects, until in the end only one quarter would henceforth be needed for the support of churches.

The burden is in fact of enormous proportions and the weight is felt in almost every home. Many are deprived of the pleasures and benefits of worship because of the great burdens it imposes and which they do not feel able to bear. The differences between sects are trivial, and the only reason of their continuance is the support of organizations which perpetuate peculiarities.

Were the three or four churches in each village resolved into one the blessing to the farming community would be immeasurable. In the single item of general social intercourse it would cause a reform which would be a perfect god-send to the people, while scarcely one in five hundred would be able to discover wherein their differences and prepossessions of opinion were interfered with. By all means let this subject of the general union of sects be considered more practically by the people.

#### THE RIGHT TEACHING.

The Maine State Agl. College inaugurates a School of Dairying. Instruction in the practice of butter and cheese making will be made prominent. The entire practical work from the Cow to the finished product will be skillfully as well as scientifically taught. This is certainly a step in the right direction. The Professor who is equipped for teaching practically this work is worth hosts of the learned professors who spend their years in theorising "how not to do it."

#### MARYLAND IMMIGRATION FIELD.

Possibly a better field might be found, inviting immigrants, than this State of Maryland; but we do not believe it.

A few items of importance may be mentioned as calculated to influence immigration, could they be made known generally among the classes most desirable.

The most important is that no place in the whole country has a better climate than has Maryland for all the various productions most profitable and most generally sought.

Then abundance of unoccupied land may be had, either already in rich productive condition, or easily brought into that condition.

Such land, too, may be had at a price in fee only a little more than is the annual rental of such lands in Europe. In many cases even for less than the annual rent paid in the old world. The immigrant can thus be the owner of his land instead of the tenant.

Markets for all produce are close at hand, and such markets as are unequaled in any other portion of this country, or in the world.

Surroundings are always pleasant so far as the immigrants may come in contact with the present inhabitants. This is a fact which should go a long distance towards influencing a worthy class to select this State as their home.

No place in the whole country has a better record for health, both of young and old. Immigrants do not

run the risk in these comparatively old regions that is inseparable from the new virgin soil of the West.

The conveniences of schools and churches should also be taken into account as belonging to this region ; for especial advantages in these respects are afforded.

The means of communication, both by water and by rail, are in no other State better, even if we should admit them to be on an equality. Large cities, large towns, large villages are within easy reach of the most remote farming lands.

Postal privileges are as excellent as they well can be; for the whole State is but a suburb as it were of the National Capital in this respect.

These and many more items appeal strongly to immigrants, and we could only ask that the real advantages be set forth in a way to reach those who are contemplating immigration, to insure a consideration of Maryland as the best field for their final choice.

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#### THE ELECTION FOR GOVERNOR.

**V**ERY much depends upon this election so far as the interest of farmers is concerned, and we are not among those who look upon it as an accomplished fact although the Hon. Frank Brown has been nominated enthusiastically by the Democratic Party.

His election depends upon the continued earnest support of the farmers of Maryland, independent of all party associations, and every effort should be put forth to insure a hearty and

general advocacy of this candidate by all farmers.

In our October number, after all candidates are in the field, we shall speak our word in this matter, giving at length the conclusions to which a study of the whole subject shall bring us.

We are desirous that the wants of farmers may be plainly set forth and we shall know to what extent they may be sanctioned by the respective candidates, and which is the man who will give the most generous, ungrudging influence in behalf of the farmer.

At present we are free to say, we heartily endorse Mr. Frank Brown in this respect as far beyond any candidate of either party who up to this time has been mentioned as his competitor.

We write this not as a partisan, for the MARYLAND FARMER is not a party paper and is in no sense partisan. Its reputation as a discreet, conservative farming journal, whose words are weighed and therefore of influence, will be sustained. It belongs to the farmers of Maryland and is wholly devoted to their good.

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#### FARM FERTILIZERS.

**T**HE MOST evident source of farm fertilizers is that of the stock. The stable, the barn, the sheep shed, the pig pen, the chicken house, the ash bin are all made of use in enriching the fields.

The mere mention of these particulars, opens a considerable field of



work to every thoughtful farmer. He knows that upon these depends a good part of his success in all future labors.

Commercial fertilizers may be of service to him; but he can readily understand that they cost hard cash, and do not in reality add any "bulk" to his soil. For some reason everything which eats requires a certain amount of "bulk" to the food. Whether that bulk contains any real nourishment, chemically speaking, or not, the bulk must be there. The soil is no exception in this respect and its food must be bulky as well as properly provided in chemical proportions.

The above tells us why farm manures go so much further in enriching the land, than the same amount of money in chemicals; which is a fact noticed by every practical farmer.

It also tells us why chemical fertilizers after a while fail to produce their expected effect upon soil. The land is said to be sick of guano, or sick of lime, or sick of patash. The commercial product does not act, because the land needs "bulky" food.

The fanciful idea, that all the necessary elements to sustain man's life may be chemically supplied by a pill no larger than a pea at meal time, may be theoretically correct; but in actual practice it will be found that a certain "bulk" is also a vital necessity.

Nothing can take the place of barn yard fertilizers in this respect, and therefore the farmer should use every method in his power to secure all of

this which it is possible to accumulate.

The very first thing, therefore, for a wise farmer to do when he gets his farm, is to provide facilities for preserving his farm manure—solid and liquid.

The greatest failures are through the neglect of this; for instead of making this first, it is generally considered the last thing to be looked after. Nine times out of ten—or perhaps I might say ninety nine times out of a hundred—the liquid manure is not attended to in any respect.

The greatest waste is not then in the care of produce after it is grown and harvested; but in the care of these sources of fertility on the farm.

Buying of commercial fertilizers must follow this waste, and no farmer has learned his business properly, until he has made himself a proficient in the care of his farm manures.

Go on any farm—no matter how extensive its reputation, no matter under what auspices—and the first thing for you to observe is, what care is given in this department of the farm work. If the fertilizing elements are allowed to go to waste; if they are not properly protected, "fined," prepared for use, utilized in season, that farm is not intelligently farmed. Money in abundance may cover up the defects in a measure; but it is not a farm which ordinary farmers may copy with advantage.

If the author of this article were writing a book on the very best method of farming—the first half of that book would be on the sources of

farm fertilizers, and the proper care and handling of them. No farming is worth considering until this is thoroughly learned. A knowledge of the chemical names for the properties in these manures is not of any account, for not one farmer in ten thousand would be fool enough to use them in common conversation; but a knowledge of how to secure every particle of them, and how to prepare them and apply them practically is what is wanted.

Every farm can be brought up into rich productiveness by properly utilizing the fertilizers within its own borders, only aided by the stock it will support, and the intelligent application of the farmer in charge.

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#### THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

**I**N OUR last number was a short letter from President Alvord of the Maryland Agricultural College. He took exceptions to what we had printed in a previous number and we are willing to give the benefit of any doubt in favor of the present administration of the institution.

Our remarks were somewhat of a general character, but included the Md. College by implication. They were, however, just remarks. We are well satisfied that something is "rotten in Denmark" when salaries and instructors' expenses to the amount of \$21,100 are warranted on the basis of six (6) graduates; Six graduates last year and \$21,100 salaries, etc., appropriated for the year to

come. It is certainly to be taken into account that in a four year's course the freshman class dated before the present administration of the College; which fact, however, does not militate against the force of the above suggestion, and the farmers of Maryland will so understand it.

Some of these salaries are open to large criticism viewed from an agricultural standpoint, and we may have occasion to refer to this matter more seriously and in detail in the future. There is one point, however, we wish to bring out strongly at this time:

#### IS THE COLLEGE FARM PROFITABLE?

Our own College Farm was undoubtedly in a low condition three years ago as to fertility and productiveness. This must be taken into consideration in all our remarks. Last year the cash receipts from the farm in the treasurer's statement of accounts were \$37.48; the cash outlay was \$1100.27. In the ledger accounts of the President's report the balance shows the farm in debt \$204.79. These figures are from the printed statements made to the legislature.

The farm should be the greatest source of instruction in the hands of an Agricultural College and as such the expenditures necessary to make it abundantly successful, under "facilities," should be made. Superfluous salaries of teachers should be subordinate always, and branches which can be dropped, should not stand in the way. Last year the salaries were \$6,782.32, for the year to come \$21,100.

We cannot have patience with the idea that an Agricultural College Farm should be an expense instead of a profit. We have understood that the Farm of Cornell University under Professor Roberts pays annually about \$5000.00 profit. It is but little over 100 acres; but every student can see that it is a decided source of profit.

The College Farm should be a "model farm" in every respect; and also, it should show such profit as will impress itself indelibly upon every student. We cannot bring ourselves to commend any teaching of agriculture as successful in which a farm of over two hundred acres fails to meet its current expenses.

It becomes a self-evident fact that some one should have it in charge who can make it pay. Why in an Agricultural College should we have a Professor of Latin and History, two professors of Chemistry, McDonnell and Hird, two professors of Mathematics, Gisard and Works, two professors of Physics, Whitney and Zimmerman, and only one "titular" professor of Agriculture who cannot make the two ends meet on the farm?

With the little stock on the College farm it does not seem reasonable that it should be necessary to purchase their food. The farm should supply it; and that in abundance. With plenty of team and labor,—say eight assistants—what is there to prevent a first class farm at the College, if under proper management?

The Farm is not an experimental

ground. It should not be one. That is distinct in every respect. It belongs to the Experimental Station work (24 acres?). The Farm should serve the highest and best purpose to students, by becoming a model farm paying large profits.

Every possible objection to making the College Farm a profitable investment pecuniarily may be easily answered. If the college cannot show farming profitable in a practical demonstration of the fact—then better not advise farmer's sons to attend there. If it proves farming to be unprofitable, better have no such college—better advise farmers and farmers' children to abandon farms at once and forever.

But the College Farm can easily be made to show as much profit as at Cornell, if we could have a Professor Roberts in charge of it. Situated in close proximity to the best markets in the world, it is a folly to say a model farm will not pay; that food must be bought to supply its dairy cattle and horses; that after three years' management it is an expense to the College instead of an income. Can we call it management? Is it not mismanagement?

Any farmer who understands his business, with a 200 acre farm in his care, with abundant facilities in the way of teams, cattle and help, with the best markets in the world at his door, and with every needed help of persons in power to procure the highest prices for produce of every description, cannot fail to make it pay.

A farmer who does not understand



his business is the only answer for failure.

What do we get for the \$37,000 of the current years' income? Are we to get the demonstration that a model college farm of 200 acres will not pay its own expenses? Are we to have it proven to the farmers and farmers' sons of Maryland that farming is a failure? Or, shall we, the farmers, insist that farming must be plainly shown as a source of ample income and profit to the farmer, when properly and intelligently prosecuted?

We give this to the farmers of Maryland in no captious, fault-finding spirit; but from a sense of our obligation to them, and an honest conviction that they have the right to our opinions. We shall be glad if any circumstances not at present known to us may modify these conclusions. Also, we will most readily admit to these columns any extenuating facts in connexion with the present subject, allowing them all the force to which they are entitled. Our only interest consists in the right, the true and the good.

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#### A POSTAL TELEGRAPH.

We have received a very suggestive article from the P. O. Dept. in reference to the use of the postal telegraph in England, with the prices of messages. It is of such a favorable character, that few who read it can hesitate to believe that such service

would be a great blessing in this country. It is paving the way for a more general desire to have these corporations under the control of the general government instead of in private hands.

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#### VALUE OF SILO.

1. It supplies the equivalent of green pasture during the winter.

2. When the corn crop is in danger of destruction by frost, the silo will enable the farmer to save it.

3. If a dry season shortens the hay crop the silo is the salvation of the cattle.

4. Roots fail, or cannot well be grown from lack of labor, then the silo fills the bill.

5. At least a doubling of the capacity of the farm to carry stock is secured by using the Silo.

6. It supplies green food when most needed for all stock; chickens, swine, sheep, cows and horses thrive on it.

7. Not itself a perfect food, it yet supplies the great "bulk" which all animals require in feeding.

8. It can be used successfully by the common help on the farm—needing only strength to handle it.

9. Combining with meal, bran, and all other rations, it can be fed with great advantage in fattening cattle.

10. Young cattle become extravagantly fond of silage and are as thrifty in winter as in summer because of the silo.

11. The silo keeps up the flow of

rich milk in dairy cattle, requiring only a small addition of bran and meal and a handful of hay.

12. With the above ration from the silo, "gilt edged" butter is produced in mid winter.

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For The Maryland Farmer.

#### BEET SUGAR.

ALL INDICATIONS seem to point to the fact that the Sugar Beet industry is destined to be of very large proportions in this country. Throughout the Western States thousands of acres are already devoted to the raising of this product and manufactories costing from \$100,000 to \$250,000 are in process of erection.

Minnesota, the two Dakotas, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, are all alive to the Beet Sugar industry, while California is in the full tide of success under the stimulus acquired from the Spreckles plants.

We think the subject is well worthy of the attention of the farmers of Maryland, for much of the loamy soil of this State is well adapted to the growth of beets.

It has been demonstrated that when grown by the hundred or the thousand acres, and wholly by machinery, the profit is a good one; while in some cases under hand culture, over two hundred dollars to the acre net profit have been secured.

If, after examination, these facts can be verified the large tracts of Maryland sandy loam cannot be put to any better purpose than the growth of the Sugar Beet.

Also, it is confidently stated that all

necessary capital would be had for the establishment of sugar factories, as soon as the facts could be demonstrated of successful sugar beet raising.

One of the best appropriations for the good of the State, especially of Southern Maryland, would be thirty thousand dollars for a thorough trial of this industry, which, if successful, would be readily appropriated by more extensive companies without loss to the State.

It is well known that France and Germany are now manufacturing from beets almost a sufficient amount of sugar to supply their needs, and although we cannot hope to do that proportion in this country, yet a vast quantity could be produced here to the manifest advantage of all concerned.

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#### BEEES IN TOWNS AND CITIES.

WHILE it is possible to keep bees in closely populated districts without their becoming a nuisance, there are but few persons who are so constituted as to be able to engage in it with impunity. If colonies are never disturbed they might not annoy near neighbors, but when honey is extracted or sections removed during a dearth of honey, great care should be exercised.

A bee keeper of this city, who is located on a city lot of little more than fifty feet in width, has been buying bees as opportunity offered, and was ambitious of increasing his colonies to the number of one hundred and fifty. He called lately to compare notes, and gave a bit of his experience, which I will now relate for the benefit of others similarly situated. Variety is the spice of life, and bee-

keepers have been accused of only giving the bright side of their pursuit. He said:

"I had been working with my bees and I noticed that the fuel in the smoker had nearly all burned out, so I picked up a rag I saw and put it in and as it burned I puffed away at some bees that were lying out and drove them into their hive. In an instant the air was full of robber bees, pouring into the hive where I had driven in the outlying bees and with them their guards. I wet a cloth in kerosene and spread it over the hive and poured on carbolic acid. The bees were stinging everything within reach, the family, chickens and pigeons. I finally exchanged hives, putting the robbed colony in the place of the robbers, and got stung fearfully while moving them. This exchange stopped the robbing, but the bees popped against the glass of the windows trying to get into the house, and watched the doors for some person coming out whom they might sting. They kept this up the following day. I had planted a row of sunflowers along the division fence between me and a neighbor on one side, and the bees did not disturb them, but the family joining me on the other side were molested. I can account for this affair in no other way than this: The cloth that I put into the smoker had been over the bees, and I noticed that it had wax and propolis on it; and it was the smell of its burning that set the bees to robbing so furiously. Instead of my wanting one hundred and fifty colonies of bees on my lot, I would like to sell half of the twenty I now have, or send them into the country on shares."

#### The Lesson Learned.

This man has learned a lesson that he will never forget, and we may also profit by it. The value of a screen around an apiary, such as a high board fence, hedge, trees planted closely, or rows of sunflowers are shown. The bees did not sting across the row of sunflowers, and if they flew that way they aimed high and went up out of the way of temptation. If an apiary is inclosed with some such screens the bees appear to think that they need only to defend the inclosure; that is their home.—*Prairie Farmer*.

#### RIPENING PEARS.

Mr. Graham, of Cincinnati Horticultural Society, once stated that the pear which suited his taste most perfectly was a Seckel found under the tree in the morning after having fallen of its own accord during the previous night. As a rule, however—and this includes Seckel as well as the others—pears ripen best by keeping in the house a week or more after they are gathered, care being taken to pick them while yet hard but when the ripening process has just begun. This point of time can be determined in several ways. 1. By the falling of the premature or wormy specimens. 2. By the good specimens separated from the tree with little trouble when taken hold of and lifted up. 3. When on cutting the fruit open the seeds show more or less of the dark color, indicating the progress of ripening.

Many pears if left to ripen on the tree become mealy and insipid or rot at the core, while if picked at the right time and house ripened they are first quality. —*National Stockman*.



**BELIEVE IT, IF YOU CAN.**

The following item is going the rounds of our exchanges;

Near Milan nearly 22,000 acres of land irrigated with water derived from the sewers of the city, are yielding crops of from eight to ten tons of hay as a rule; while occasionally some separate meadows will yield the fabulous amount of eighteen tons of hay per acre.

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Experience seems to have shown very clearly that some, if not all, soils may be injured, in our American climate at least, by a bare fallow. But sometimes such a fallow may be necessary as a means of destroying weeds. In such a case I would certainly let the weeds grow as long as it was safe, before turning them under.—*American Garden*.

The Hamburg Packet company thinks it is going to have a steamer that will cross the ocean in about three days.

The prospect for a fair catch of mackerel by the vessels on the New England coast are more promising than for some time.

Michigan has amended its state laws so that children suffering from consumption or chronic catarrh must be excluded from public schools. The public is gradually waking up to the fact that consumption is a contagious disease, the spread of which can be greatly lessened by suitable measures of precaution.

Visitor—"The wind seems to shake that scarecrow over there a little. I've noticed it quiver two or three times."

Mr. Suburb—"That isn't a scarecrow. That's the hired man working for forty dollars a month and board."

**BOOKS, CATALOGUES, &c.**

The People's Horse, Cattle, Sheep and Swine Doctor. Edited by Wm. H. Clarke. Illustrated. Extra cloth binding. Price \$1. M. T. Richardson, Publisher, New York. A book on diseases of domestic animals, which should present a description of each disease and name the proper medicines for treatment in such condensed form as to be within the means of everybody, has long been recognized as a desideratum. The work before us appears to cover the ground completely.

Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co., Paris France. Fall catalogue of Flowers, plants, etc.

Reports from the State Department, and also from the Agr. Department. From time to time we notice from these in other columns whatever we find especially adapted to our wants.

Geo. P. Rowell & Co.'s Book for Advertisers, 179th edition, a guide to those who seek either special or general advertising. New York.

Transaction of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for 1889, Part 2.

Ninth Annual Report Geneva Ex. Station, N. Y.

Sheep Husbandry in Virginia—Free distribution by Norfolk & Western R. R. Co.

Review of Reviews, \$2.00 a year, N. Y., always interesting.

## BREAD CRUSTS.

DID you have to eat the bread-crusts  
 When you was a little girl?  
 Did your grandma ever tell you  
 It would make your hair all curl?

If it's so I want to know it,  
 If indeed it's really true:  
 Please to tell me if you ate them,  
 I'll be much obliged to you.

Would you have to eat a thousand?  
 So they'd make your cheeks real red?  
 Does it tickle when it crinkles,  
 And the curls come on your head?

For my grandma looks so funny,  
 When she hands her crusts to me,  
 And she says she knows I'll eat them.  
 Just the thing to have for tea.

Well, I've tried it and I've tried it,  
 Spreading honey and my jam  
 On my grandma's tough old bread-crusts,  
 And I'm tired of it, I am.

For there's no sign of roses,  
 Not the least bit of a curl;  
 I'll do other things to please her,  
 But I'll be no bread-crust girl.—*Sel.*

## AUNT MARY'S SUGGESTION.

"JOHN THOMAS!" Mr. Belknap spoke in a firm, rather authoritative voice. It was evident that he anticipated some reluctance on the boy's part, and, therefore, assumed, in the outset, a very decided manner.

John Thomas, a lad between twelve and thirteen years of age, was seated on a doorstep, reading. A slight movement of his body indicated that he heard; but he did not lift his eyes from the book, nor make any verbal response.

"John Thomas!" This time the

voice of Mr. Belknap was loud, sharp and imperative.

"Sir," responded the boy, dropping the volume in his lap, and looking up with a slightly flushed, but sullen, face.

"Didn't you hear me when I first spoke?" said Mr. Belknap, angrily.

"Yes, sir."

"Then, why didn't you answer me? Always respond when you are spoken to. I'm tired of this ill-mannered, disrespectful way of yours."

The boy stood up, looking, now-dogged, as well as sullen.

"Go and get your hat and jacket." This was said in a tone of command, accompanied by a side toss of the head, by way of enforcing the order.

"What for?" asked John Thomas, not moving a pace from where he stood.

"Go and do what I tell you. Get your hat and jacket."

The boy moved slowly, and with a very reluctant air, from the room.

"Now don't be all day," Mr. Belknap called after him. "I'm in a hurry. Move briskly."

How powerless the father's words died on the air. The motions of John Thomas were not quickened in the slightest degree. Like a soulless automaton passed he out into the passage and up the stairs; while the impatient Mr. Belknap could with difficulty restrain an impulse to follow after, and hasten the sulky boy's movements with blows. He controlled himself, however, and resumed the perusal of his newspaper. Five, ten minutes passed, and John Thomas had not yet appeared to do the errand upon which his father designed to send him. Suddenly Mr. Belknap dropped his paper, and, going hastily to

the bottom of the stairs, called out ;

"You, John ! John Thomas !"

"Sir !" came a provokingly indifferent voice from one of the chambers.

"Didn't I tell you to hurry—say ?"

"I can't find my jacket."

"You don't want to find it. Where did you lay it when you took it off last night ?"

"I don't know. I forget."

"If you're not down here with your jacket on, in one minute, I'll warm your shoulders well for you."

Mr. Belknap was quite in earnest in this threat, a fact plainly enough apparent to John Thomas in the tone of his father's voice. Not just wishing to have matters proceed to this extremity, the boy opened a closet, and, singularly enough, there hung his jacket in full view. At the expiration of the minute, he was standing before his disturbed father, with his jacket on, and buttoned up to the chin.

"Where is your hat ?" now asked Mr. Belknap.

"I don't know, sir."

"Well, find it, then."

"I've looked everywhere."

"Look again. There ! What is that on the hat rack, just under my coat ?"

The boy answered not, but walked moodily to the rack, and took his hat therefrom.

"Ready at last. I declare I'm out of patience with your slow movements and sulky manner. What do you stand there for, knitting your brows and pouting your lips ? Straighten out your face, sir ! I won't have a boy of mine put on such a countenance.

The lad, thus angrily and insultingly rated, made a feeble effort to throw a few

rays of sunshine into his face. But the effort died, fruitless. All was too dark, sullen, and rebellious within his bosom.

"See here !" Mr. Belknap still spoke in that peculiar tone of command which always stifles self respect in the one to whom it is addressed. "Do you go down to Leslie's and tell him to send me a good claw hammer and three pounds of eight penny nails. And go quickly."

The boy turned off without a word of reply, and was slowly moving away, when his father said, sharply :

"Look here, sir !"

John Thomas paused and looked back.

"Did you hear me ?"

"Yes, sir."

"What did I tell you to do ?"

"To get you a claw hammer and three pounds of eightpenny nails."

"Very well. Why didn't you indicate, in some way, that you heard me ? Haven't I already, this morning, read you a lecture about this very thing ? Now, go quickly. I'm in a hurry."

For all this impatience and authority on the part of Mr. Belknap, John Thomas moved away at a snail's pace ; and as the former, in a state of considerable irritability, gazed after the boy, he felt strongly tempted to call him back, and give him a good flogging in order that he might clearly comprehend the fact of him being in earnest. But, as this flogging was an unpleasant kind of business, and had, on all previous occasions, been succeeded by a repentant and self-accusing state, Mr. Belknap restrained his indignant impulses.

"If that stubborn, incorrigible boy returns in half an hour, it will be a wonder," muttered Mr. Belknap, as he came back into the sitting room. "I wish I



knew what to do with him. There is no respect or obedience in him. I never saw such a boy. He knows that I'm in a hurry; and yet, he goes creeping along like a tortoise, and, ten chances to one, if he doesn't forget his errand altogether before he is half way to Leslie's. What is to be done with him, Aunt Mary?"

And Mr. Belknap turned, as he spoke, to an elderly lady, with a mild, open face, and clear blue eyes from which goodness looked forth as from an angel. She was a valued relative, who was paying him a brief visit.

Aunt Mary let her knitting rest in her lap, and turned her mild, thoughtful eyes upon the speaker.

"What is to be done with that boy, Aunt Mary?" Mr. Belknap repeated his words. "I've tried everything with him; but he remains incorrigible."

"Have you tried——"

Aunt Mary paused, and seemed half in doubt whether it were best to give utterance to what was in her mind.

"Tried what?" asked Mr. Belknap.

"May I speak plainly?" said Aunt Mary.

"To me? Why yes. The plainer the better."

"Have you tried a kind, affectionate, unimpassioned manner with the boy? Since I have been here, I notice that you speak to him in a cold, indifferent or authoritative tone. Under such treatment, some natures, that soften quickly in the sunshine of affection, grow hard and stubborn."

The blood mounted to the cheeks and brow of Mr. Belknap.

"Forgive me if I have spoken too plainly," said Aunt Mary.

Mr. Belknap did not make any re-

sponse for some time, but sat with his eyes upon the floor in hurried self-examination.

"No, Aunt Mary, not too plainly," said he, as he looked at her with a sobered face. "I needed that suggestion, and thank you for having made it."

"Mr. Howitt has a line which beautifully expresses what I mean," said Aunt Mary, in her gentle, earnest way. "It is:

'For love hath readier will than fear,'

Ah, if we could all comprehend the wonderful power of love! It is the fire that melts; while fear only smites, the strokes hardening, or breaking its unsightly fragments. John Thomas has many good qualities, that ought to be made as active as possible. These, like goodly flowers growing in a carefully tilled garden, will absorb the latent vitality in his mind, and thus leave nothing from which inherent evil tendencies can draw nutrition."

Aunt Mary said no more, and Mr. Belknap's thoughts were soon too busy with a new train of ideas, to leave him in any mood for conversation.

Time moved stealthily on. Nearly half an hour had elapsed, in which period John Thomas might have gone twice to Leslie's store, and returned; yet he was still absent. Mr. Belknap was particularly in want of a hammer and nails, and the delay chafed him considerably; the more particularly as it evidenced the indifference of his son to his wishes and commands. Sometimes he would yield to a momentary blinding flash of anger, and resolve to punish the boy severely the moment he could get his hands on him. But quickly would come in Aunt Mary's suggestion, and he would again

"There comes that boy now," said he as he glanced forth, and saw John Thomas coming homeward at a very deliberate pace. There was more of impatience in his tone of voice than he wished to betray to Aunt Mary, who let her beautiful, angel-like eyes rest for a moment or two, penetratingly, upon him. The balancing power of that look was needed; and it performed its work.

Soon after, the loitering boy came in. He had a package of nails in his hand which he reached, half-indifferently, to his father.

"The hammer!" John started with a half-frightened air. "Indeed, father, I forgot all about it!" said he, looking with a flushed countenance, in which genuine regret was plainly visible.

"I'm sorry," said Mr. Belknap, in a disappointed, but not angry or rebuking, resolve to try the power of kind words. He was also a great deal strengthened in his purposes, by the fact that Aunt Mary's eyes would be upon him at the return of John Thomas. After her suggestion, and his acknowledgement of its value, it would hardly do to act in open violation of what was right—to wrong his son by harsh treatment, when he, professed to desire only his good.

The fact is, Mr. Belknap had already made the discovery that, if he would govern his boy, he must first govern himself. This was not an easy task. Yet, he felt that it must be done. voice. "I've been waiting a long time for you to come back, and now I must go to the store without nailing up that trellis for your mother's honeysuckle and wisteria, as I promised."

The boy looked at his father a moment or two with an air of bewilderment

and surprise; then he said, earnestly:

"Just wait a little longer. I'll run down to the store and get it for you in a minute. I'm very sorry that I forgot it."

"Run along, then," said Mr. Belknap, kindly.

"Yes—yes," he murmured, half-aloud. "Mrs. Howitt never uttered a wiser saying. 'For love hath readier will than fear.'"

Quicker than ever Aunt Mary, whose faith in kind words was very strong, had expected, John came in with the hammer, a bright glow on his cheeks and a sparkle in his eyes that strongly contrasted with the utter want of interest displayed in his manner a little while before.

"Thank you, my son," said Mr. Belknap, as he took the hammer, "I could not have asked a prompter service."

He spoke very kind, and in a voice of approval. "And now, John," he added with the manner of one who requests, rather than commands, "if you will go ever to Frank Wilson's and tell him to come and work for two or three days in our garden, you will oblige me very much. I was going to call there as I went to the store this morning; but it is too late now."

"Oh, I'll go, father—I'll go," replied



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the boy, quickly and cheerfully. "I'll run right over at once."

"Do, if you please," said Mr. Belknap, now speaking from an impulse of real kindness, for a thorough change had come over his feelings. A grateful look was cast by John Thomas into his father's face, and then he went off to do his errand. Mr. Belknap saw and understood the meaning of that look.

"Yes—yes—yes," thus he talked with himself as he took his way to the store—"Aunt Mary and Mrs. Howitt are right. Love hath a readier will. I ought to have learned this lesson earlier. Ah! how much that is deformed in this self-willed boy, might now be growing in beauty."—*Yankee Blade*.

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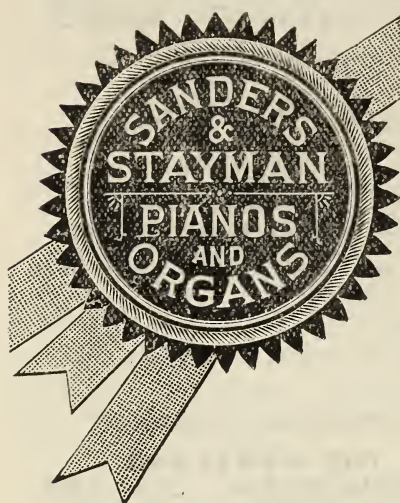
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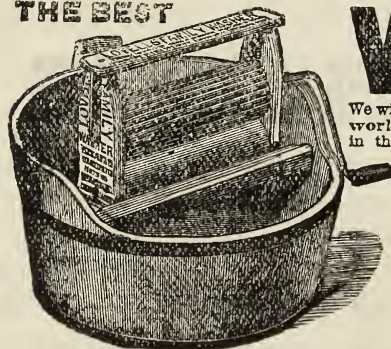
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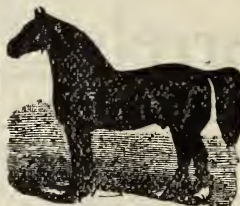
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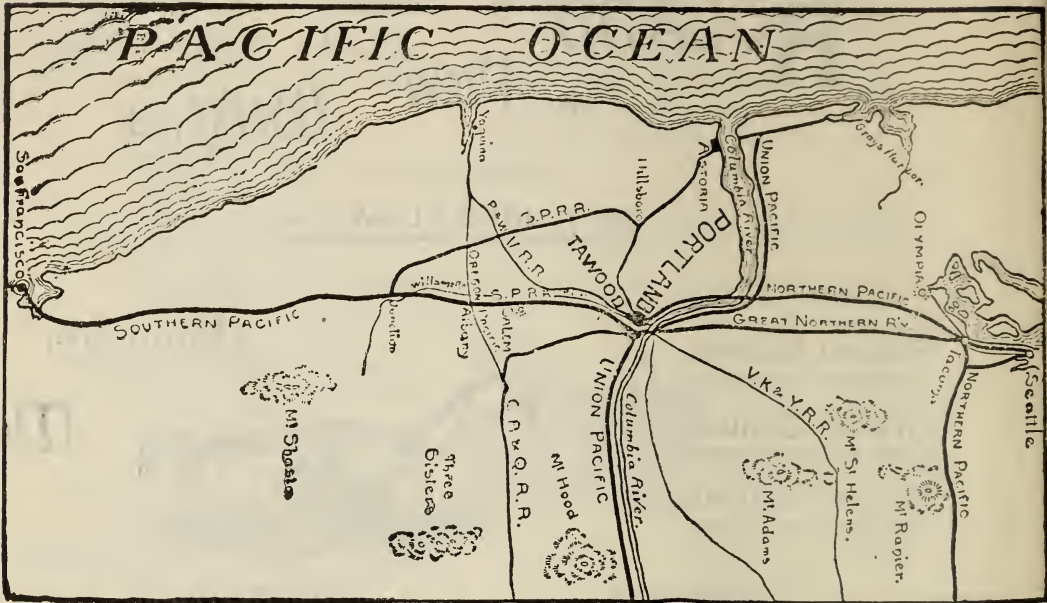
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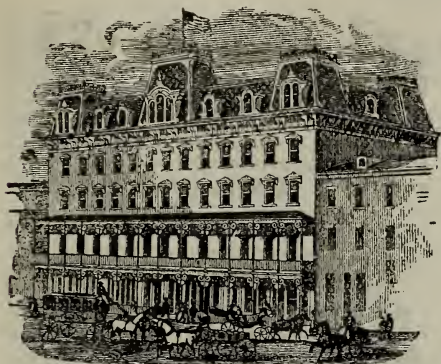
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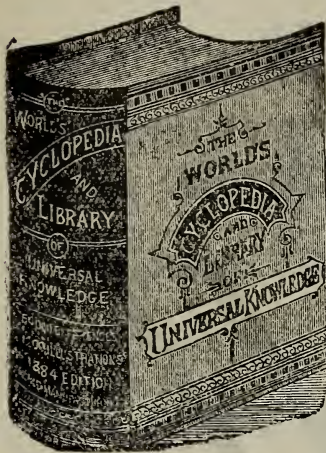
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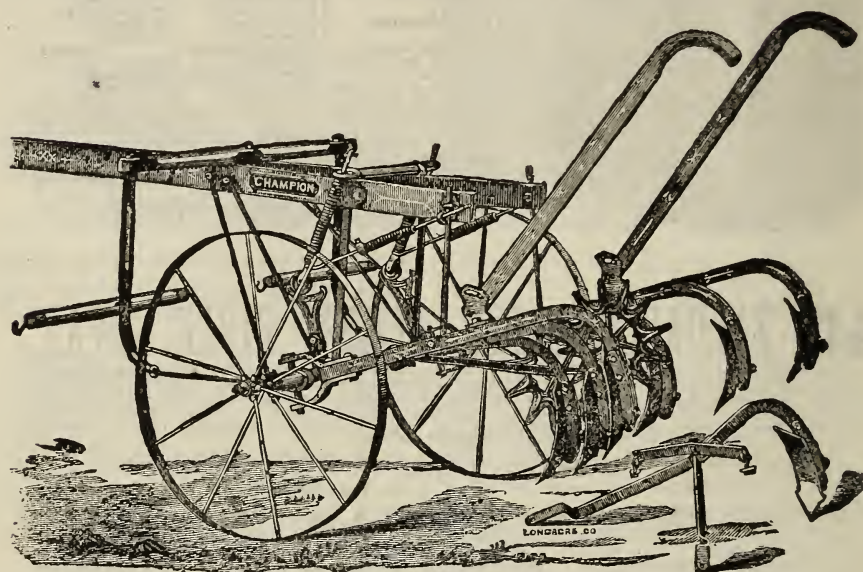
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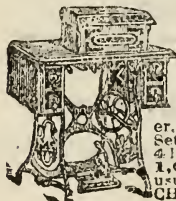
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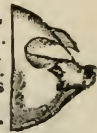


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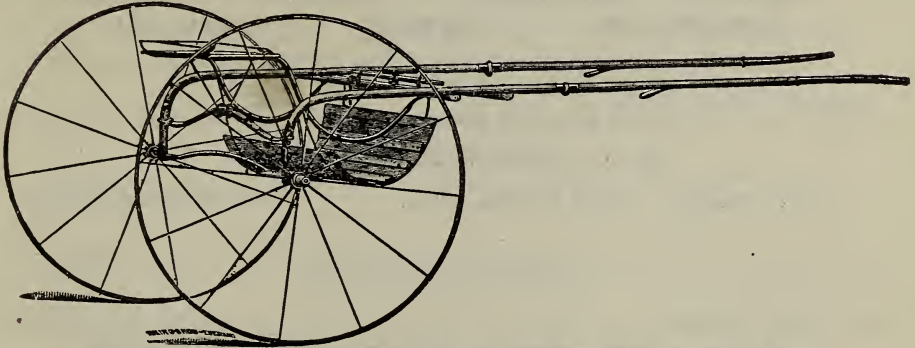
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